Vanaspati and other edible oils as a result thereof; and

(c) if so, the reasons for reducing the supply of imported edible oil to the Vanaspati industry?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Due to the reduction in the allocation of imported oils in manufacture of vanaspati, there was rise in the prices of edible oils and vanaspati upto January, 1987. The prices are now showing a declining trend.

(c) The supply of imported oil was reduced to:—

(i) encourage larger production of edible grade permitted minor oils such as rice bran and cottonseed oils etc.;

(ii) allow the farmers to get a better prices for indigenous oil as an incentive for larger production; and

(iii) to reduce imports of edible oils.

Non-availability of sugarcane to sugar mills

384. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:
SHRI KALPNATH RAI:
SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that almost all the sugar mills in West Uttar Pradesh are lying closed due to non-availability of sugarcane;

(b) if so, the reasons for non-availability of sugarcane to the sugar mills;

(c) whether non-availability of sugarcane is also affected the working of the sugar mills in other States and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to ensure availability of sugarcane cane to the sugar mills and to see that sugar production in the country does not decline?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) No, Sir, it is not a fact that all the sugar mills in West Uttar Pradesh are lying closed. In fact, as on 15th February, 1987, 25 sugar mills in west Uttar Pradesh were working as against 24 mills working on the same date last year.

(c) As on 15th February, 1987, 329 mills were working as against 313 mills working in 1986 and 277 in 1985 on the same date.

(d) Development of sugarcane is the responsibility of the respective State Governments and the sugar factories. Loans on soft terms are available to sugar factories from the Sugar Development Fund, for developing sugarcane in their respective reserved zones. Loans amounting to Rs. 13.50 crores to sugar factories have already been sanctioned for development of sugarcane.

On its part, the Central Government have taken policy measures like raising the statutory minimum price of sugarcane and increasing the proportion of levy-sugar, etc. These measures are aimed at improving the economic viability of the sugar mills to enable them to pay better prices for sugarcane. Besides, the minimum prices of sugarcane are now announced in advance of the sowing season.

Reorganisation of D.D.A.

385. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for reorganisation of the Delhi Development Authority for streamlining the process of development of housing in the city; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Suggestions received for streamlining the functioning of the DDA are under the consideration of Government.

National Overseas Scholarship Scheme

386. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made an assessment of the working of the National Overseas Schoolarship Scheme for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections of the society;

(b) whether it is a fact that many students are unable to complete their studies within the prescribed time limit; and

(c) what is the number of students of this country who went abroad under the Scheme so far and what is the number of such students who have not returned to India as per the terms of the agreement?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) So far 359 scholars have gone abroad under the scheme and 58 of them have not returned to India as per terms of agreement.

Assessment of farm extension

387. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment and review have been made of the progress of the farm extension programme in various States; and

(b) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The results of various reviews and studies reveal that there has been perceptible impact of the farm extension system in systematising transfer of relevant farm technology, introducing new crops and cropping patterns and popularising use of various inputs leading to overall increase in farm productivity.

These studies and reviews have shown that (i) about 80 per cent of the contact farmers and 50 per cent of non-contact farmers know their Village Extension Workers (VEW), (ii) there is no systematic and significant farm-size bias in VEW visits, and (iii) substantial number of farmers find VEW advice useful. The need for (i) improvement of the role of middle level extension functionaries, (ii) streamlining of adaptive research programmes, (iii) reduction of non-extension activities of extension workers, (iv) establishment of better linkage of extension services with research and other line departments, (v) provision of adequate budgetary support, (vi) better extension cadre management and (vii) greater infrastructural support to the extension system have been indicated in these reviews and studies.

These findings relate to those States where farm extension has been systematised on the Training and Visit pattern, with an in-built mechanism of reviewing progress. The States of Tripura, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and Sikkim have not been covered under this pattern.

Additional allocation of edible oil to Vanaspati Industry

388. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent decision of Government to reduce supply of imported edible oil to ten per cent to the Vanaspati industry has led to escalation in the prices of Vanaspati and other edible oil;

(b) whether Government have received any memorandum from the Indian Vanaspati Producers' Association for additional allocation of imported edible oil to maintain its output to meet the demands of the public distribution system; and